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# THE ADVERSARY

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

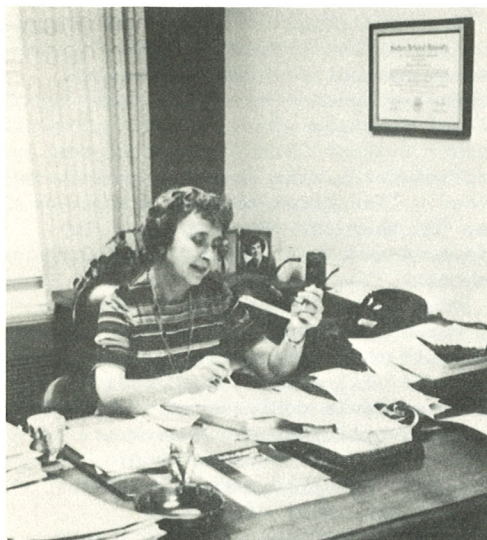
SPECIAL LEGAL CLINIC EDITION

Vol. 4, No. 10

Dallas, Texas

April, 1972

## Legal Clinic's Winning Combination



**Maxine McConnell**

The turning point in the progress of the Legal Clinic program came in June, 1970, when Mrs. Maxine T. McConnell assumed her new title of Director. Mrs. McConnell is an S.M.U. School of Law alumna from 1958 although she took the Bar in 1957. She was in partnership practice from 1957 to 1966 at which time she went to the Dallas Legal Services Program as a senior attorney. She retained this position for two years and was then Chief Counsel for an additional two years before coming to S.M.U.

How does Mrs. McConnell see her role? "Only with a full-time Clinic director/attorney can the Clinic experience be broadened," she insists. "Emphasis is on teaching in the Clinic, (rather than the representation of clients), but as part of the learning experience, I must help the law student commit himself to the client and the client's problem," she continued. The thrust of Mrs. McConnell's approach is to show students not only how to handle legal problems, but how to accept professional responsibility.

In comparing her experiences with the Dallas Legal Services Program to those at the S.M.U. Legal Clinic, she expressed her viewpoint that generally the two serve the same types of people with the same types of problems. The addition of a Director allows a broadening of the scope of the problems accepted in addition to

Cont'd. Page 4

This edition of the Adversary is devoted to coverage of the SMU Legal Aid Clinic. Inside you will find informative and descriptive articles about the Clinic and its operation. Also included are interviews with key personnel in the clinic. It is hoped that this edition will answer any questions about the Clinic which you may have had. Undoubtedly you will be as impressed with the Clinic as we are and will join with us in offering our congratulations for a job well done to those who made the Clinic what it is today.

The Management

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



**Walter Steele**

Sporting slightly grey hair, a well-known straight-shootin' (sic) poker face, and occasionally his favorite cowboy boots with his suit, Professor Walter W. Steele, Jr. is definitely a distinguishable individual in the S.M.U. School of Law faculty. But, one should not be misled by his conservative demeanor; Steele is one of the most progressive attorneys in the Dallas legal community.

A life-long Dallasite, Professor Steele attended both Arlington State College (now UTA) and North Texas State University. Without graduating with an undergraduate degree, Steele entered S.M.U. School of Law as a self-styled "Ninety Hour Wonder," under a special program allowing entrance to law school after completion of three years of undergraduate work. In 1958, Steele took another short cut, this time with Uncle Sam -- the six months active plus six years reserve duty route. He then entered private practice with a small firm, his primary interest being criminal justice. In 1964 Steele became an instructor at the S.M.U. School of Law and Director of the Dallas Legal Services Program for two years. He then served a one-year term as a graduate fellow in the criminal justice Administration Program at the University of Texas in Austin and returned to S.M.U. to become an Assistant Professor of Law.

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## LEGAL CLINIC STRUCTURE

The Legal Clinic Program seeks to combine classroom training with actual legal internship. Two Legal Clinic courses, "A" and "B", are offered each semester. Both courses must be taken in order to receive any credit for the program.

Legal Clinic "A" is devoted entirely to classroom instruction. Professor Walter Steele, Mrs. Maxine McConnell and various guest lecturers discuss problems involved with cases most often handled in general civil practice. "A" students meet twice each week and receive two hours credit.

The two hour "B" course is devoted to the handling of clients' cases. Each student is assigned an interview hour during which he meets with prospective clients and evaluates their cases. Every student is afforded the opportunity to video-tape at least one interview and receive a critique on his interviewing technique.

The Clinic operation itself is designed to be as nearly similar to an actual law office as possible. Professor Steele acts as the Senior Partner in overseeing the administration of the entire program. Mrs. McConnell is the trial lawyer who shares with the Student Staff Assistant the responsibility for the ultimate disposition of each case. Student Staff Assistants are associates whose primary duties are interviewing, research, preparation of pleadings, and court argument. The Clinic Student Chief and Deputy Counsels are responsible for the day to day physical administration of the Clinic operation. Mrs. Norma McGrew and Mrs. Bea Johnson are the Clinic's secretaries. Both are well trained and highly qualified legal secretaries.

In short, the Legal Clinic offers the law student the most realistic and valuable exposure to actual law practice available.

Cont'd from page 1 - STEELE

The Adversary Editorial Board first asked Professor Steele what his goal was when he accepted the task of directing the Legal Clinic. He admits having seen his overall plan fulfilled in part with the addition of Mrs. McConnell as Director in June, 1970. "Crucial to the effective functioning of the Legal Clinic is the employment of a full-time lawyer as Director, not a part time lawyer/part time teacher," Steele asserted.

The other part of his goal has met considerable opposition from downtown as well as from the law school. "I would like to see in the next stage more than one clinic, for example, "he continued, "specialty clinics like for juvenile or criminal or civil matters." Professor Steele attributes objections to the practicing attorneys' fear that law students and law professors would interfere with the efficient management of the process, be it civil or criminal.

One advantage of the Legal Clinic as compared to the Legal Services Project is the insulation of the former from politics, at least from community politics. Steele sees the purpose of the latter as one of serving the community, to wit: the poverty community; however the law school's clinic has as its mandate teaching and educating law students with the consequences being rendering legal services.

Professor Steele along with the Deputy Student Chief Counsel of the Clinic supervises all post conviction relief cases, the only criminal matters with which the clinic will contend. "The great problem with expansion in this area," offered Steele, "is that the trial in a criminal matter may last two or three days, and neither I nor the student have this kind of time to spend in court."

His daily calendar is a busy one. Time is well allocated between supervision of the Clinic and teaching, but he enjoys the present setup and division of time. Mrs. McConnell directs the daily activity; however about twice a semester, Professor Steele will examine each case individually. Then, if necessary, he will schedule conferences. . . or confrontations. His basic desire in his capacity as supervisor is to show students that clients "are not like casebooks because people can and do manage the student attorney. This is unlike working with law books, which are consulted at will." One of his major efforts to achieve this aspect of the learning process is a personal, oral critique of every student's video-tape interview with a client. "Some lawyers are failures because they never successfully learn how to work with people -- the clients." he reiterated his admonition to law students.

When queried about curriculum changes, Professor Steele asserted, "actually the present curriculum is well-balanced." As far as comprehensive changes go, he recommends none.

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## THE ADVERSARY SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Editor-in-Chief . . . . . Jay Carmichael  
Editorial Board...Richard Anderson, Carol Barger, Richard Grisham,  
Dudley Murrey, Burns Vick  
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Cont'd. from page 2 - STEELE

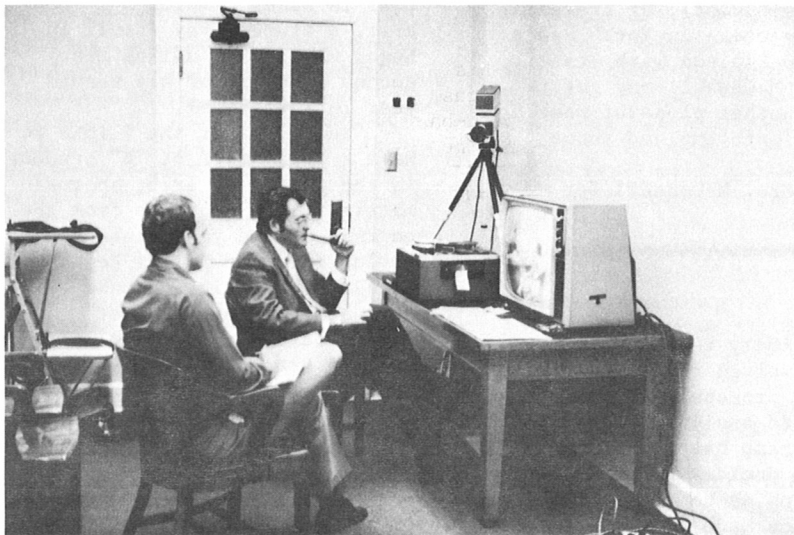
There are a number of practice-oriented courses and he suggested that if one were to make a study of the curriculum, one would realize that there is a lack of enrollment and subscription in many such courses. "Perhaps it boils down to the fact that many of these so-called practical courses are not on the Bar," he hypothesized.

One member of the Board posed a question whether by virtue of being in an academic community, the Legal Clinic is insulated from having to answer to the community at large. "This kind of excursion-ary task force approach to law reform," Steele commented, "is not protected by the academic shield because although the clinic doesn't have to worry about the income angle, it still must answer to the criticisms of the legal community and alumni." He cited as the newest endeavor in this field a case [concerning the Dallas loitering ordinance.] soon to be filed in Federal Court. "However," Professor Steele volunteered, "on the whole, the Dallas Bar has always been very cooperative with the Clinic and seems to appreciate the things we are trying to do with Legal Aid."

Walter Steele's wife Gigi does get to see him occasionally. Though she is a nurse several days each week, her main task is being the mother of their numerous children -- three kids and many pigeons! Can he remember all their names? "Oh, the pigeons are numbered, but the children do have names." The oldest child Julie is eleven; Greg is nine; and Eric is seven.

And why pigeons? "Pigeons are restful; it's sort of like an aquarium on the wing. I enjoy watching the birds, and the last thing on my mind is the legal world . . . that's the point of the whole thing." Thailand Laughters, Fantails, and rare Cumulets. He is a cream of the coop member of the Rare Breed Pigeon Club, and enters them each year at the State Fair in Dallas and the Fort Worth Fat Stock Show. In addition to being one of ten Outstanding Professors, selected last year by a committee of students from the University as a whole, he is a consistent exhibition winner, thanks to the pigeons . . . and himself. What more can we say?

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Every Clinic student has the opportunity to video-tape an interview with a client. Later, as here, Professor Steele personally critiques the interview and points out to the student where and what the weaknesses in his interviewing technique are.

## STUDENT CHIEF COUNSEL

The position of Student Chief Counsel offers an invaluable insight into the workings of a law firm engaged in general practice. The structure of the Legal Clinic is very similar to that of an actual law firm with the Chief Counsel acting as the administrative partner of the firm. He is primarily responsible for the regular physical operation of the clinic activities. Most client applications are screened and subsequently assigned to Student Staff Assistants by the Chief Counsel.

Much of the Chief Counsel's time is spent conferring with Student Staff Assistants on appropriate procedure to be followed during the various steps of each case. The Chief Counsel ordinarily acts as the information link between the Clinic Supervisor, the Clinic Director, and the Student Staff Assistants.

In addition, the Chief Counsel advises various referral agencies of services which the Clinic can offer and corresponds with the many persons who seek information or assistance from the Clinic.

The benefits of such an experience are invaluable. Not only does the Chief Counsel observe the problems which arise in the handling of a wide variety of cases, he also has the advantage of seeing the answers and solutions to those problems as developed by thirty Student Attorneys, the Clinic Director and the Clinic Supervisor. Certainly, no other law school experience can so adequately prepare an attorney for his own practice in law.

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## ... AND THE DEPUTY

The duties of the Deputy in the Legal Clinic can best be described as "fluid": he does what needs to be done. His function ranges from administrator and interviewer to chief flunky and handy-man.

Cont'd. Page 4



Cont'd. from page 1 - MCCONNELL

effective control of the caseload.

Mrs. McConnell assumes the day to day responsibility for Clinic activity. She spends from 10 to 12 hours per week in court with students who present cases under her supervision. When accompanying students on their court appearances, she promotes and broadens the experience by introducing student staff assistants to judges, clerks, bailiffs, attorneys, etc. In addition, after each court setting she critiques the student's performance while things are fresh on the minds of everyone.

How does the S.M.U. Legal Clinic rate? From her reading and from the last meeting of Legal Aid and Defenders, the Director feels that the Clinic at S.M.U. is superior to most. "Primarily, this is the result of the in-house approach used," she commented. "This allows supervision of all activity and the continuity of learning experiences." She noted that most programs, similar to Legal Clinic just turn students over to Legal Services Programs, private practitioners, or D.A.s. At this juncture, Mrs. McConnell stressed once again the necessity of close supervision. Students may reach her daily on questions of law or procedure. Also, a series of communiques and periodic memos serve as one of the methods of communication for the learning experience.

But like Professor Steele, Mrs. McConnell sees the need for broadening the Clinic's activity. She would like to see an additional attorney, at least on a parttime basis, added to the staff. Also, she hopes to foster the continued expansion of the types of cases accepted. One change in relation to the academic curriculum she would like to see, if possible, is the encouragement of students to have taken Procedure and Evidence prior to working in the Legal Clinic.

Director McConnell is very active with several Dallas Bar Committees. This year she serves on the Judiciary Committee, the Legal Education Committee, and the Law Day Committee.

What does she like after a hard day's work? Her special delight is grandson, Robin Michael, who will be one on April 13, 1972. The proud parents are Mr. and Mrs. James E. Glynn of Dallas. Mrs. McConnell's daughter Ann is a parttime speech pathologist when she takes time out from her duties as mother and wife of an engineer with Lone Star Gas.

Mrs. McConnell's spare time may be spent with her gardening, or reading, or picking at the piano (for private enjoyment), or traveling. Last summer she spent a "beautifully restful" two weeks on North Padre Isle. As Chairman of the Family Law Committee on Liaison with State and Local Bar Associations of the A.B.A., Maxine McConnell may get to extend this business trip to San Francisco for another pleasant week or two or R & R. She has also set her mind on a trip to England about this time next year.

A special thanks from the School of Law to Mrs. McConnell for a continuing, good job.

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Cont'd from page 3 - DEPUTY

The Deputy Student Chief Counsel has the primary responsibility for all post-conviction relief matters. This involves receiving communications from prisoners who desire relief, processing forms and applications, and assigning cases to student staff assistants.

After the initial research on a particular case has been completed, the Deputy counsels with the student and decides if sufficient information is known to be able to make a decision as to the merits of the prisoner's claim. A recommendation is then made as to closing the case, or filing a petition for a writ of habeas corpus. The final determination as to the merits of a claim is then made by Mr. Steele.

The other duties of the Deputy are many and varied. He helps set up the video-tape equipment for student interviews with clients, as well as conducting scheduled interviews when a student is unable to make his office hours. He assists the students (Cont'd. at right.)

## Student Practice Rule

The new student practice rule governing the participation of law students in the trial of cases in Texas was passed by the State Legislature and approved by the Texas Supreme Court in 1971. The rule permits only those students who have completed two-thirds of their legal education (i.e., third year students) in an approved law school to practice as legal interns. Each student must certify that he has read and will comply with the Canons of Ethics and must receive certification from the Dean of his law school as to the number of credit hours which he has completed and his eligibility to take the Bar Examination.

All students participating as a law intern must be supervised by a licensed attorney registered with the State Bar of Texas. The student may, when accompanied by his supervising lawyer and with the approval of the presiding judge, take depositions, argue motions and otherwise assist in the conduct of a trial or hearing.

The promulgation of the new student practice rule means that only third year students may enroll in Legal Clinic "B". However, a student may enroll in Legal Clinic "A" during the second semester of his second year in law school.

In order for the Clinic to have a full staff of "B" students in the Spring of 1973, approximately thirty students from the current second year class are needed for next Fall's Legal Clinic "A" section. Those students who have not yet participated in the Legal Clinic program are urged to give careful consideration to the benefits offered through Clinic activities.

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in handling their cases, and explains trial procedure. He is further responsible for the acceptance or rejection of clients after the initial interview.

The job of Deputy Student Chief Counsel holds a great deal of potential for anyone who enjoys helping people and dealing with their strange legal problems.

## Indispensable Pair

NORMA MCGREW



No review of the work of the SMU Legal Clinic would be anywhere near complete without recognition of Mrs. Norma McGrew and Mrs. Bea Johnson, the Clinic's indefatigable secretaries. Secretary, though, is an inaccurate description of them as their responsibilities are broad and varied. Among other duties, Mrs. McGrew handles all client inquiries, sets up initial appointments with clients, prepares reports, processes records of all the cases, and handles the Clinic checking account for court costs and fees. Mrs. Johnson spends countless hours typing correspondence in civil cases as well as the pleadings, which she also checks to insure that all is in order. Additionally she is secretary to Professor McKnight and assists him with his Legal Clinic work as well as his Family Code Project duties and articles and correspondence.

Since Mrs. McGrew has been with the Clinic since 1963 and Mrs. Johnson since 1965, they have seen a great many changes in its personnel and activities. In interviews with them, they both noted that the Clinic has become much more organized, the student staff assistants are much more prepared for their work, and cases are being handled that have more social impact than the domestic relations cases which are the usual legal services fare.

Despite the (Cont'd next column.)

BEA JOHNSON



necessary irritation of interruptions for phone calls and the unavoidable routine of typing, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. McGrew emphasized that they genuinely enjoy their work, especially meeting and getting to know the student attorneys, many of whom return to visit after they complete their Clinic experience. They like being associated with a university community and derive satisfaction from the nature of their work.

However, the foregoing is still not an adequate description of their relationship to the Clinic. Every student staff assistant probably remembers them in different ways. But with much fondness, I will always recall them listening patiently to me explain why that petition had to be typed that afternoon, or to my bitter complaints of the law's bias against the poor. I will recall them answering questions I should have been able to answer myself. I will recall Mrs. Johnson at her typewriter behind a great stack of files awaiting attention and Mrs. McGrew processing cases while talking steadily on the phone with a confused client. And I will be grateful that I knew them.

Richard Grisham

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## Retrospect and Recommendation

Al Ellis served as Student Chief Counsel of the Legal Clinic from June, 1971 until December, 1971 when he graduated from the law school. He is now practicing with the firm of Woodruff, Kendall, and Smith and also serves as the SMU Students' Legal Counsel. Al was interviewed because it was felt that his experiences should be related as one who has put his Clinic experiences to application in private practice.

When asked what he considered the major benefits of Legal Clinic experience, Al answered that he thought three particular areas were of particular importance: (1) more familiarity with pleading, pre-trial, and courtroom procedures; (2) alleviation of fear and nervousness before the client and court; and (3) confidence in one's self before the court and in talking with clients. Al commented that he thought the SMU Legal Clinic, in comparison with Legal Aid programs in other Texas schools, is probably unique as far as teaching techniques of actual practice to the extent it does.

Ellis warned that one problem must be confronted by all Clinic students -- that contrary to the majority of divorce cases handled by the Clinic, all divorces are not uncontested. Students must be prepared for fierce opposition and heated arguments over property, custody, etc. and should not be lulled by the relative ease of Clinic divorce cases.

The ex-Chief Counsel would like to see a separate "Criminal Legal Clinic" to function on the same basis as the present Clinic but allowing students to work closely with criminal attorneys. Students would necessarily be restricted to assisting in criminal cases since there is no way for a student to go to court alone (owing to the length of criminal trials and the time factor involved). Al surmises that possibly the court might be enticed to appoint a student assistant along with court-appointed counsel. (Cont'd. page 6)

# Diversity? You Know It!

During the 1972 Spring semester 28 Legal Clinic B students have interviewed 162 applicants for legal assistance. Through March these students have made 88 appearances before courts or administrative boards.

Each student has represented two to four clients in divorce, annulment, or other family related cases. Many of these cases have been contested resulting in trials or settlements after conferences with opposing counsels.

The number of clients with complex and challenging problems has increased substantially. Presently pending are several suits involving real property: one to remove a cloud from the title, another to prevent foreclosure of a mortgage lien, and one to recover nominal damages from a contractor because of a latent defect in construction of a home. Landlord - tenant problems are numerous and the Clinic represents clients not only in eviction cases but in suits to recover deposits. A suit for breach of lease and to recover both the first month's rent and the deposit has been filed recently.

Other cases handled during the semester include claims for social security benefits with hearings before examiners and suits for review in Federal Court; drivers license suspensions; probate of wills; representation of defendants in suits on promissory notes and for damages resulting from automobile accidents; suit against an automobile mechanic for failure to repair properly; a suit against the Dallas Independent School District alleging that its suspension procedures deny due process of law; and a suit alleging that failure to give notice to a natural parent in an adoption proceeding filed subsequent to prior termination of parental rights is a denial of due process of law.

The student staff attorneys gain much valuable experience not only from courtroom appearances and trials, but from interviewing clients as well. The client's problems may involve a patent or a will or a deed which the student will prepare. The need for debt counseling and assistance in negotiation with "hounding" creditors brings many clients to the Clinic.

In the criminal area Clinic students have handled or are working on 30 post-conviction relief cases including one suit for the return of \$1,700.00 allegedly taken from a convict by the police when he was arrested.

Work in the Clinic varies as much as it does in a firm with a general practice -- except that we cannot anticipate handling a million dollar law suit or estate.

Rhett Campbell & Maxine McConnell

## Clinic Course Description

The Legal Clinic course (if you can call it a course in the strict sense of the word) is divided into two parts which must be taken in two separate consecutive semesters. The first part is designated Clinic "A" and is an in-depth study of all that the student will be doing in the second part, Clinic "B".

Clinic "A" is conducted by Professor Walter Steele and Mrs. Maxine McConnell with visiting lecturers making frequent appearances. Emphasis is placed on the "how to" in different subject areas with assignments covering recent cases, statutes, rules of procedure, etc. An extensive study of divorce is conducted and includes pleadings, orders, judgments, handling temporary and final hearings, service of process, and other practical matters necessary to carry a divorce through to completion. Lectures and discussions also cover such varied subjects as post conviction relief, marriage counseling, child support, (Cont'd. page 7)

Cont'd from page 5 - RETROSPECT

The "Criminal Legal Clinic" would necessitate a separate staff. The big question is whether or not there is any demand by students for such a project or clinic.

Al recommends the Legal Clinic to all students regardless of their job intentions after graduation since the Clinic offers the opportunity to react to and with clients, attorneys, and judges and at least to break away from "case and theory" courses.

Reminiscing, Al recalls that the most rewarding aspect of the Clinic was being able to "take what knowledge I had and help someone with it!"

Jay Carmichael

## SPECIAL PROJECT

Mental Health and  
Retardation Center

This semester was the first time a Legal Clinic student has worked at the Dallas Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center. The Center is comprised of social workers who help those with mental problems. In trying to help those with mental problems one runs across differing legal questions. It is for this purpose that a Legal Clinic student is assigned to this project.

The project entails going to the Center for one morning or one afternoon each week. The social workers set up appointments for the Clinic student and he proceeds from there. The social workers at the center are eager to help in any way and greatly appreciate having the services of legal counsel.

The range of problems encountered is great. There are procedure and procedural due process questions in dealing with the mental retardation statute. There are also equal protection problems which arise when a mentally retarded person is discriminated against in the community. The problems are challenging and the rewards great.

Jim Mezvinsky

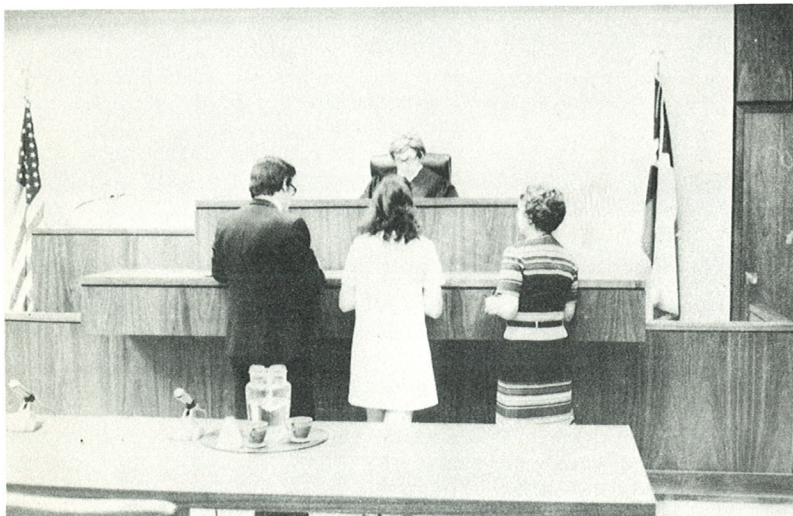


landlord-tenant relationships, adoption, guardianship, special custody, and the Safety Responsibility Act. Students learn about city court practice, law office management (including fee setting, billing, and collecting), peace bond practice, how to get clients out of jail, and interviewing techniques. A tour of the courthouse is conducted to familiarize students with where to go, who to see, and how to get something done. The entire Clinic "A" course is aimed at preparing the student for practical work in Clinic "B" and in practice after graduation. Subject matter is necessarily geared to the types of cases which the student will encounter in Clinic "B" but is not exclusive. It is not impossible for a "B" student to be assigned to a case in other subject areas or for him to be working on a revolutionary case on a subject previously unexplored or untested in the courts.

Clinic "B" is supervised by Professor Steele and Mrs. McConnell with students working under their guidance as well as the Student Chief Counsel and the Student Deputy Chief Counsel. No "classes" as such are held in Clinic "B" but periodic seminars will be conducted on unusual clinic cases. "B" students are required to be on duty in the Clinic for interviews or working on cases during a scheduled office hour one hour per week. In addition, "B" students must spend as much time in the Clinic as it takes to handle their cases. "B" students interview clients, draft and file the necessary instruments, make courtroom appearances, and generally carry each of their cases to completion. Memoranda must be filed periodically by the student on each case in order to give the supervisors a gauge of progress and continuing effort.

Perhaps the Introduction to the Legal Clinic Student Manual prepared by Professor Steele is the best summation possible: "For many of you participation in the Legal Clinic will be a new (and perhaps unsettling) educational experience. Nevertheless, your tenure in the Legal Clinic is the only opportunity you will have to literally 'practice' law. Most law school courses are designed to teach you how to think like a lawyer. The purpose of the Legal Clinic is to teach you how to act like a lawyer. Therefore, we measure a Clinic student more by what he does than by what he knows."

Jay Carmichael



Student Attorney and client appear before the Court under the Supervision of Mrs. McConnell.

## SPECIAL PROJECT

### Seagoville

For the student searching for something different from the "run of the mill" divorce case, the Seagoville Project is the answer. Because of the recent diversification of the Legal Clinic into areas other than service to the indigent, the student interested in the practical application of the law can now select from a wide array of opportunities in which he can exercise his knowledge in his field of interest. The Seagoville project is just such an example of the clinic's expansion effort.

The project itself consisted of my being at the prison at least one night each week to counsel with the inmates. At that time I interviewed the men, listening to their problems with a goal in mind of finding some solution. Many times solving the problem called for research of some aspects of it and other interviews with the inmate later on. Other times consultation with Professor Steele, clinic Supervisor was called for; or in some cases reaching a solution entailed a visit with a member of the prison administration.

The success of the program itself has to be due in part to the pervasive atmosphere of cooperation displayed by the officials in the system itself. Whether this attitude can be attributed to the administration's desire to exhibit their "model prison" in a good light or to a sincere desire to help the prisoners and inform the public, I don't know; in any event those in charge were generally receptive to my presence at the institution.

As far as what situations confronted me, the variety was great. I came in contact with everything from individual divorce cases to a constitutional problem affecting many of the men involving the length of their hair. Many of the problems involved the narcotics laws—since violation of these was a popular offense among those at Seagoville. (Cont'd. Page 8)



## SPECIAL PROJECT

### Caruth Institute

Caruth Institute is a self-sufficient organization related to the Business School of S.M.U. which assists business students in organizing and running "real" business entities. Classes pertaining to creating and continuing various types of business entities are taught and students are expected to start a proper, money-producing business. These students and the Caruth Institute itself present legal oriented problems to the Legal Clinic student assigned to the project. These problems and questions are discussed and answered if possible. Some problems are simple and easy, others very complex and research is required to answer the legal question properly.

The work done on the project covers almost every area of corporate law. This semester corporations have been created with various securities and tax questions involved. Exemptions under the Texas Securities Act is normally required. Corporations were dissolved requiring the settlement of all claims and the filing of Articles of Dissolution. Questions relating to partnership law arose when a limited partnership agreement was

(Cont'd. next column)

There were a few who came in with nothing to do on Thursday nights other than to dream up a new "technicality" they thought I might buy; yet generally speaking the attitude of the inmates was sincere and appreciative.

Although my presence at Seagoville was chiefly to help the prisoners, the process produced a mutual benefit. I found that I could not work within the institution for very long without developing some feelings about whether that particular part of the legal system was doing its job -- that is rehabilitating the men to return them to society. I knew from talking with the inmates that many of them would be back again; the effect of even a "model" prison was not significant on the men. Although I felt I was doing some good by treating the everyday problems of the prisoners, I was completely engulfed by the thoughts that is somewhere along the line some effort had been made to understand these men, our often lame and mediocre efforts at rehabilitation would not be needed at all. I must acknowledge that working on this special project was a meaningful experience.

Ken Ford

required. In one instance a contract to manufacture and distribute a fishing product need to be evaluated with respect to the rights and liabilities of the owner. The questions presented vary considerably with the circumstances of each client. The relationship of the Legal Clinic with Caruth Institute is a means of providing a learning experience for both business and law students.

Jim Erck

## SPECIAL PROJECT

### Community Relations Commission

The Greater Dallas Community Relations Commission (CRC) is a privately funded agency which operates to promote better understanding between all elements in the community. It proceeds to accomplish this objective by spotting and investigating problems, offering solutions, and, as the case dictates, striving to correct and eliminate the problem or achieve a reconciliation between the parties involved. Its staff is also available to answer or look into complaints from any citizen on any matter in which that citizen feels he was not fairly treated. Complaints range from job discrimination areas to police or law enforcement areas. The Commission is specifically denied the power to take any legal action in any matter. Its main thrust is either in solving the problem by some non-legal means, i.e., settlement by arbitration type proceedings, or in investigating a situation and referring the complainant to proper legal counsel to effect a correction of the problem.

The chief duty of the legal clinic staff member has been primarily investigative. The bulk of time is spent interviewing and dealing with clients. Some time is spent, in researching the legal aspects of the problems that come to the Commission.

Steve Holley



"THAT'S CLYDE - OUR STAR WITNESS IN A  
HOUSING CASE THIS AFTERNOON"